(vii) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) has been launched to bring about reforms in electricity distribution in the States.

Villages electrified in U.P.

4290. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the State of U.P. which have been electrified and pumpsets energized on the 31st March, 2003;

(b) the number of villages in District Azamgarh which are yet to be electrified and by when these are likely to be covered; and

(c) what- steps have been taken to ensure that electricity supply is continuously provided to the villagers during harvesting season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) According to Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL), 56746 villages have been declared electrified (Provisional) and 799020 pumpsets energized as on 31.03.2003.

(b) It has been further reported by UPPCL that 2254 villages are remaining to be electrified in Azamgarh district. These villages would be electrified as and when the financial position of UPPCL improves.

(c) The supply to rural areas have been increased from 8.00 hours to 9.00 hours w.e.f. 1.04.2003 for harvesting and threshing purpose.

Hydro-power projects under construction

†4291. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hydro-power projects under construction in the country at present along with their total capacity;

(b) the number of hydro-power projects likely to be started in this year; and

(c) the quantum of power estimated to be generated from such projects?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE JNTHE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) 37 Hydro-electric projects with aggregate capacity of 14,344 MW are presently under construction in the country.

(b) and (c) 9 Hydro-electric projects with aggregate capacity of 3,765 MW are programmed to be commissioned during the year 2003-04.

Equal distribution of extra unallocated power

4292. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in accordance with the Indus-Water Treaty and consequent agreement on sharing the water of Sutlej, Ravi and B'eas rivers of 1984, the participating States were to get equal distribution of extra-unallocated power generated by the various Thermal Power Stations;

(b) if so, whether Rajasthan is getting its fair share of the extra-unallocated power from these power stations; and

(c) if not, then how would Government ensure that all participating States adhere to the initial agreement and that all States get fair distribution of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Indus-Water Treaty signed in the year 1960 and the agreements signed by the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on 31.12.1981 regarding the allocations of surplus (Ravi-Beas) water does not contain any provision for distribution of extra unallocated power generated by Thermal Power Stations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Production capacity of power projects in Eastern Region

†4293.SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production capacity of the power producing projects of eastern region are more than the need for consumption of power in that region;

† Origina! notice of the question was received in Hindi.